

Remarks:

1. Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being Unpatentable over Shitanoki (4,789,342) in view of Torii et al. (5,875,588).
 - a. Regarding claim 1, applicants respectfully point out that the Auxiliary gear of Shitanoki is not located within the housing 16 of Shitanoki as can be seen in Figure 4 of Shitanoki. In addition, applicants contend that it is improper to construe 56 of Torii as a ring shield since removing the portion of 56 that the Examiner construes as a plate would not leave a ring, but only two arc portions of a ring because the sidewall of 56 is not contiguous, as can be seen in figure 1 of Torii. For these reasons, applicants contend that claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over Shitanoki in view of Torii and is in condition for allowance.
 - b. Re claim 2 (which depends from claim 1), in addition to the arguments cited above, the auxiliary gears 54 as read by the Examiner are not rotatably mounted to an axle that is disposed at an axial center of the detail Examiner construes as a ring shield. As can be seen in Figure 1 of Torii, there are two axles for the auxiliary gears, neither of which could be mounted at the axial center of 56. For at least these reasons, applicants contend that claim 2 is in condition for allowance.
 - c. Regarding claim 3, in addition to the reasons listed in points 1(a) and 1(b) above, applicants point out that Torii does not disclose a ring shield wall comprising a low rise portion adjacent said main gear, and a high rise portion distally disposed in relation to said main gear. 56 of Torii shows a high rise portion but no low rise portion. For at least these reasons, applicants contend that claim 3 is in condition for allowance.

- d. Regarding claim 4, as claim 4 depends from claim 3, in addition to the reasons listed in 1(a), 1(b), and 1(c) above, the top portion of detail 56 of Torii construed by the Examiner as the plate is not truncated by a truncation edge as can be seen in Torii Figure 1. The top of detail 56 (read as the plate by Examiner) in Figure 1 is completely round, having no truncation. For at least these reasons, applicants contend that claim 4 is in condition for allowance.
- e. Regarding claim 6, applicants refer the Examiner to the arguments found in 1(a) above. For these reasons, applicants contend that claim 6 is patentably distinguishable over Shitanoki and is in condition for allowance.
- f. Re claim 7, in addition to the reasons cited in point 1(e) above, applicants point out that Torii does not disclose a ring shield wall comprising a low rise portion adjacent said main gear, and a high rise portion distally disposed in relation to said main gear. 56 of Torii shows a high rise portion but no low rise portion. Applicants contend that claim 7 is in condition for allowance.
- g. Re claim 8, in addition to the reasons cited in point 1(f) above, the auxiliary gears 54 as read by the Examiner are not rotatably mounted to an axle that is disposed at an axial center of the detail Examiner construes as a ring shield. As can be seen in Figure 1 of Torii, there are two axles for the auxiliary gears, neither of which could be mounted at the axial center of 56. Applicants contend that claim 8 is in condition for allowance.
- h. Re claim 10, applicants respectfully point out that the portion of Torri detail 56 that Examiner construes as a ring shield is not a ring at all, does not have a low rise portion adjacent said main gear and a high rise portion distal said main gear,

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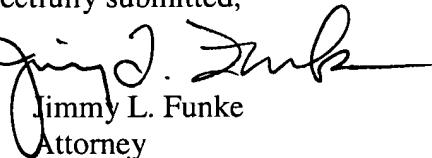
and does not have wall edge demarcating between the high and low rise protions, and does not have a truncation edge (see above). For these reasons, applicants contend that claim 10 is patentably distinguishable over Shitanoki in view of Torii and is in condition for allowance.

2. Claims 5, 9, and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations in the base claim and any intervening claims. As applicants contend that the base claims and all intervening claims are now in condition for allowance, applicants contend that claims 5, 9, and 11 are now in condition for allowance.
3. Applicants have amended claim 1 and claim 6 to more clearly define the claimed invention.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the instant application. Applicants believe that the application is now in condition for allowance and look forward to a timely Notice of Allowance.

Although no fees are believed due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0831 for any fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Jimmy L. Funke
Attorney
Telephone (248) 813-1214
Reg. No. 34166

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